THE MUTABLE MANY

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CHAPTER XXIX .- CONTINUED. Marsten resolved to let nothing stand in the success. He believed he could more than earn any salary they gave him, and no man in London had a greater incentive for making and accumulating money than he had; nevertheless, he desired above all things to hold the good opinion of the men, and to connot for himself. He realized that alone he was powerless, but with their united support

he was invincible.

He called a meeting to reconsider the salary of the Secretary, and that meeting was well attended; for the subject to be discussed had more interest than his abandoned educational campaign, the purpose of which was to teach them the principles of combination. Most of the men thought him a fool in not knowing his own

Marsten, addressing them, said that his whole object in taking the Secretaryship was to bring about an amalgamation of labor which would make the results of future strikes a certainty. all the rights mankind possessed had been won battle; but the battles must be sucressful, success was only possible when there was no dissension in the camp. He frankly stated that he had learned there was some dissatisfaction because he got more money than was sarned by many who labored in the ranks, and he had made an estimate of how sittle he could live upon, which was less than the poorest paid employee received. He was willing to accept this sum, and would devote his whole time and energy to the cause of labor as faithfully as if he received ten times the amount.

Gibbons, who had at last found employment to the neighborhood, here rose to his feet. He said he thought the office of Secretary could be still more economically filled. He was sure they had men among them, now in employ, who uld act as Secretary without salary from the union, and perform all the duties quite acceptably to the majority of the men.

'Why didn't you propose that when you were Secretary yourself, Gibbons?" asked one of the audience, at which there was some laughter. "I did not do so because I was at that time

out of work," replied Gibbons, warming to his theme. "I don't wish to say a word against him a question or two. He seemed once of entaion that Sartwell was a very shrewd, farseeing man. I would like to know, Mr. Marsten, if you are still of that epinion?" "I am," answered Marsten.

Then can you explain to the meeting why Sartwell has taken no further steps to cripple the union, which we all know he desired to smesh, and, in fact, did threaten to smash? Why did he not, in taking back the men, make it a condition that they should leave the

"How should I know? I may say, however, that I believe Sartweil to be an essentially just man, although he may be mistaken in some things, and I don't think he would interfere

"It is very generous of the Secretary of our who looted our treasury, and we won't forget that Sartwell has at least one friend among us. is a little remarkable that that one friend should have been the only man, of all Sartwe'l's employees, who was suddenly dismissed, and, as far as we know, without cause. One more question, Mr. Marsten. Do you know why Sartwell discharged you?" Marsten was silent, his color rising.

"Of course," continued Gibbons, calmly, "you are not compelled to snawer. I am merely asking what many of us have been thinking. You either know, or you do not. You have called this meeting, and I think you should have the courtesy to answer any reasonable question asked you. You say you want the support of the men, whose servant you are. These is a reasonable desire: but to bestow that confidence we must have full knowledge of our man. I ask for the second time, do you know why Sartwell discharged you?"

nothing to do."
"Oh, indeed! Then you had personal dealings with the man we were fighting, which you would prefer us to know nothing about, I will not press for a more specific answer. No man is bound to incriminate himself. I have

in is bound to incriminate himself. I have one Mr. Marsten a chance to explain certin discure points that have puzzled some of debt, and A has the original bit of paper he started with. In like manner a clever person can bestow a great favor upon another and at the same time sense which our Secretary recens so much nestre. I would like now to call your attent to one or two points. Rightly or notice, it is contest. "He committee with which I acted a grave doubts of the loyalty of Mr. Marsten during our late contest." "He fore the strike heran, he hit self addited that he had been properly who had a conference with se them, and who had a conference with the chem's plans unfortunately like it was too late to make that knowledge will be seen who had a conference with the set only man who had a conference with se them, and the committee with fartwell. The shrewd Haldiman, bringing some premised work to the editor of Our National Art, casually mentioned that Harnard Hooe had been invited to send some of his paintings to Parls.

What! Do you mean the Chelsea giant? What! Do you mean the Chelsea giant? What! The precision is not bis superit." "Haldiman looked puzzled; then he said with some hesitation: "Londess I used to thick that; but, of solution to the more ready in become that could not carlot. I would the new to only a property of the country o

paths with any man who has been condemned on circumstantial evidence. I know now, as I never did before, that many a poor wretch has gone to an undeserved death. Gibbons, you have throughout referred to me as Mr. Marsten, I disciaim the 'Mr.,' as doubtiess you do, so I shall call you niain Gibbons. Gibbons, you have defeated me. The meeting I have called is against me and for you."

There were cries of dissent at this.

'Oh, yes, it is. I will prove it in a misute by putting it to vote, if you like."

'Hold on!' cried Gibbons: 'that is not fair, I grotest against a vote being taken after such a declaration."

'I am going to take no untair advantage, and only spoke of a vote because my assertion seemed to be doubted. Now, Gibbons, you asked me several questions: I claim the right to put a few to you, and I charge you to answer as honestly as if you were on oath. Do you actually believe that I am in the pay of Sartwell,'

'' 'I didn't say so."

'' 'Do you believe I am?''

''Yes, I do.''

'What object could Sartwell have in buying me?''

''Oh, that's too self-evident. If he controls

"What object could Sartwell have in buying me?"
"Oh, that's too self-evident. If he controls
you he controls the action of the union."
"Please explain how. No action can be taken
without a majorite vote."
"That's it, exactly. Fhan's why you are begging for our confidence and support, so that
when the time comes you can deliver to Sartwell what he pays for."
"I see, Did Nartwell ever offer to buy you?"
"He never did. He knew better."
"Did you ever offer to sell yourself to Sartwell?"

well?"
"What's that? What do you mean?"
"I'll out the question in another way. Did
you write a private letter to Sartwell a few
days before the strike ended?"
Gibbons rose to his feet in such evident confusion that several of the crowd laughed, and
all were in a state of tense excitement. This
was the kind of thing they liked. Marsten
was carrying the war into Africa.
"What are you accusing me of?" cried Gibbons.

"What are you accusing me of?" cried Gibbons.

"Like yourself, I am making no accusations, Didlyou send such a letter or not?"

"As leader of the strike I may—"

"No, no. Answer yes or no."

"let me explain. I say—"

"First answer the question, Gibbons."

"I refuse to be coerced in this manner. I am willing to answer anytling, but must be allowed to answer in my own way."

"No man is bound to incriminate himself. Gibbons, as you remarked a while ago. Since we cannot get an answer to that question. I will ask another. Will you give me permission to read your Sartwell letter to this meeting?"

Gibbons was dumfounded, and forgot entirely. In his agitation, that the letter had been returned to him, remembering only that its contents were not for the general p blic. His attitude was that of conscious guilt.

"Read it, read it." cried the growd, and the shouts seemed to arouse Gibbons to a sense of the situation.

"I rottest against the ceading of a private."

Read it, read it." cried the rowd, and the shouts seemed to arouse Gibbons to a sense of the shouts seemed to arouse Gibbons to a sense of the situation.

"I protest against the ceading of a private letter in public," ne stammered.

"And quite right, too," said Marsten. "I protested against the public discussion of a private quarrel, and the protest was held against me. Now, I have no desire to push my opponent to the wall, and I will say at once that the letter in question may be as innocent as 'Marv had a little lamb.' I never read it and never saw it. I heard of it through a chance remark, but I know nothins of its contents. You see now how easy it is to ask a question a man may hesitate to answer, and you see of how little value circumstantial evidence is. Now, Gibbons, we are quits, and I am willing to let bryones be bryones if you are, I give you my word—and that is all I have to offer, for I'm the poorest among you—that I am not in the pay of any one on earth except yourselves. I swear to you that I have only one object in view, and that is the bettering of our condition. All I ask is rair play. Perhaps I can't do what I think I can, but I want to try. If I fail, then let the next man come on and have his try, and he will have no more earnes, supporter than I will be. With dissension in our ranks, nothing on be done; so I want the backing of every man in the union, and more especially of the man who thinks I have been a traiter—which I declare to him and to you I was no. Now, Gibbons, this has been an open question and answer meeting. There has been a free-for-all give and take here to-night. I have a last question to ask you; Arr you going to be my, friend or my enemy? There were cries of "The the mark, filbbons." "Time." "Speak up, my boy." "Show your hand, Gibbons." "A prove gentlemen, that Marsten be confirmed in his secretaryship of the union, and I hope the vote will be unanimous. We will give him what he aske a fair chance and as long as he deals squarely with us, we will deal squarely with him. A

Ingenious persons have shown that a fivepound note rightly guided will liquidate an
almost unifinited amount of liability. Let it
be granted, says the mathematician, that A
owes B., B owes C. C owes D, and D owes Aone hundred shillings in each case. A gives a
five-pound note to B, who gives it to C, who gives
to D, who gives it to A. The personial one
of the same note wipes out one hundred nounds
of debt, and A has the original bit of paper he
started with.

In like manner a clever person can bestow a
great favor upon another and at the same time

THE REAL SURVIVE MAKES TO SURVIVE MAKES